

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----030135 171744Z /43

R 171729Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5548

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 05367

EXDIS

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, ECIN
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC SUMMITRY

REF: BRUSSELS 4131

1. AT LUNCH MARCH 17, COMMISSION SECRETARY GENERAL EMILE NOEL OUTLINED FOR ME COMMISSION STRATEGY FOR UPCOMING SERIES OF HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS, CULMINATING IN JULY ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN BONN, THAT SHEDS SOME FURTHER LIGHT ON IDEAS JENKINS DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR HINTON (REFTEL).

2. NOEL SAID COMMISSION IS TRYING TO PERSUADE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO FOCUS ON FOUR MAIN THEMES DURING COMING MONTHS:

-- A) DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY COMMITMENTS (OR AT LEAST AGREED ORIENTATIONS) TO CONCERTED ECONOMIC EXPANSION IN COMMUNITY. IN ADDITION TO AGREEMENT TO MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER AND TO COORDINATE POLICY MORE CLOSELY WITHIN EC BODIES, COMMISSION HOPES FOR AGREEMENT TO IMPLEMENT OR AUGMENT COMMUNITY FINANCING INSTRUMENTS TO SUPPORT THIS THRUST.

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-- B) TRADE. COMMISSION WANTS TO USE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETINGS TO GET HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FIRMLY COMMITTED TO SUCCESSFUL MTN AND JULY COMPLETION DATE, AND TO INSTRUCT EC COUNCILS TO WORK TOWARD THOSE GOALS.

-- C) ENERGY. COMMISSION HOPES SERIES OF EUROPEAN

SUMMITS CAN UNBLOCK CURRENT STALEMATE WITHIN EC ENERGY COUNCIL ON AT LEAST THOSE ELEMENTS OF COMMON ENERGY POLICY PROPOSALS DEALING WITH COMMUNITY PROGRAMS TO SPUR INVESTMENT AND RESEARCH IN ENERGY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES.

-- D) INDUSTRIAL POLICY. WHILE COMMISSION REALIZES THAT IT MUST CONTINUE PROGRAMS TO EASE PRESSURE ON AILING SECTORS (E.G., STEEL, TEXTILES, ETC.), IT WANTS EUROPEAN COUNCILS TO BEGIN TO SHIFT COMMUNITY FOCUS MORE TOWARD PROGRAMS TO DEVELOP THOSE SECTORS IN WHICH EUROPEAN INDUSTRY HAS COMPETITIVE FUTURE. NOEL SAID COMMISSION INCREASINGLY RECOGNIZES THAT PRESSURE ON OLDER INDUSTRIAL SECTORS WILL INCREASE FROM THIRD WORLD, AND HE BELIEVES COMMUNITY MUST BEGIN NOW TO ADJUST BY CONCENTRATING RESOURCES IN THOSE SECTORS WHICH CAN TAKE UP THE SLACK AS OLDER INDUSTRIES START TO PHASE DOWN.

3. CURRENT COMMISSION STRATEGY IS TO USE MEETING OF FINANCE COUNCIL ON MAR. 20 TO PREPARE FOR HEADS OF STATE/ GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION ON CONCERTED GROWTH POLICIES IN COPENHAGEN, AS WELL AS TO INTRODUCE OTHER TOPICS IN PARA 2 ABOVE FOR TOUR D'HORIZON AT COPENHAGEN. IF ALL GOES WELL, VARIOUS COUNCILS WOULD BE INSTRUCTED OR ENCOURAGED TO PREPARE GROUND FOR BREMEN EUROPEAN COUNCIL JULY 7 AT WHICH SOME KEY DECISIONS COULD BE TAKEN. THIS WOULD PAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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WAY FOR FOCUSED AND MORE FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S., JAPAN, AND CANADA AT BONN SUMMIT LATER THAT MONTH. NOEL WAS NOT PREPARED TO PUT MONEY ON THE LINE THAT SCENARIO WOULD UNFOLD AS SMOOTHLY AS STRATEGY PROJECTED, BUT SAID JENKINS WAS OPTIMISTIC FROM CONVERSATIONS HE HAS HAD SO FAR. NOEL FELT THAT SCHMIDT, AS CHAIRMAN OF BOTH EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN JULY, HAD A STRONG INTEREST IN SUCCESS AND WOULD PERHAPS BE MORE INCLINED THAN AT PREVIOUS SUMMITS TO WORK HARD FOR CONSTRUCTIVE RESULTS.

4. ALL OF ABOVE AGAIN UNDERLINES IMPORTANCE OF BLUMENTHAL AND SCHULTZE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ORTOLI'S STOP IN

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5549

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 05367
EXDIS
WASHINGTON APRIL 27 FOR MORE FIRST-HAND ASSESSMENT OF
COMMISSION STRATEGY. MEETINGS WITH ORTOLI WOULD ALSO
GIVE US A SUPPLEMENTARY OPPORTUNITY TO HELP ORIENT THAT
STRATEGY IN DIRECTIONS WE FAVOR. MORRIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE05367
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780119-0708
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780357/aaaabvks.tel
Line Count: 133
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ef9f17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 4131
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3296328
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECONOMIC SUMMITRY
TAGS: ECIN, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ef9f17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014